



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-108

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Dec. 11, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Walla Walla District power team to assist FEMA in storm-damaged Mid-West

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sent a 10-member emergency power team to Kansas City, Mo., today, to assist FEMA Region VII efforts to restore power to tens of thousands of people hit by ice storms in Kansas this week.

More than 100,000 Kansas and Missouri homes and business were without power today after an ice storm made its way across the region on Sunday and Monday, knocking down tree limbs and power lines. More sleet and ice is forecasted for today across much of Kansas and Missouri, according to the National Weather Service.

At about 7 a.m. today, FEMA Region VII officials requested the Corps of Engineers send a power team to provide emergency power technical assistance at its Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Kansas City. Walla Walla District's power team was first on the list to respond and departed at about 2:30 p.m. for Kansas City. Emergency management officials anticipate the team will support FEMA operations there for about one to two weeks.

Walla Walla District's emergency power team consists of an action officer, a mission manager, two mission specialists, a mission liaison, two logistics specialists, a contract specialist and two power quality assurance specialists. The all-volunteer team can provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency makes the service needed. Team members agree to be in an on-call status, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes.

The National Weather Service reported one-half to an inch of sleet and freezing rain in some counties in central and northeast Kansas, one quarter to one-half inch across much of the southern half of the state, and one-tenth of an inch to one-half inch across northwest Kansas. Storms dropped 2-3 inches of sleet and freezing rain on Bowling Green, Mo.

An audio news briefing about the Kansas severe weather was posted on the National Weather Service Web site at 9 a.m. today, predicting more ice storms for parts of Kansas and Missouri throughout the day and overnight. www.crh.noaa.gov/top/?n=winterweatherbriefing.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nwww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil